

along the set (7), and the rings (2) of the set (7) being accommodated with small mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings (2), characterised in, that for at least the majority of said pairs of adjacent rings (2) the nominal value of said play is zero, whereby said nominal value of zero is realised by positive and negative amounts of play between said pairs of adjacent rings (2).--

B17
OK
--16. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 15, characterised in, that the nominal value of zero is realised by a tolerance of $|0.00005|$ times the outer diameter of the inner ring (2) of a relevant pair of rings (2), plus or minus of said diameter.--

✓ --17. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 1, characterised in, that said mutual play between the innermost pair of adjacent rings (2) is of negative value.--

OK --18. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 17, characterised in, that the outer diameter of the innermost ring (2) is of a value $(1-Z)$ times the inner diameter of the adjacent ring, Z being of a value smaller than 0.0008.--

bv --19. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 18, characterised in, that Z is of a value greater than 0.0001.--

--20. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 15, characterised in, that the mutual play of the outermost pair of adjacent rings (2) is of positive value.--

--21. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 20, characterised in, that the inner diameter of the outermost ring (2) is of a value $(1+Y)$ times the outer diameter of the adjacent ring, Y being of a value smaller than 0.0004.--

B7
xj
--22. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 21, characterised in, that Y is of a value greater than 0.00005.--

--23. (New) Belt (1), [in particular] according to claim 15, for use in a continuously variable transmission, in particular for automotive application, comprising at least one set (7) of nested metal rings (2), the set (7) interacting with transverse elements (3, 6) provided slidably along the set (7), and the rings (2) of the set (7) being accommodated with small mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings (2), characterised in, that said mutual play of the outermost pair of adjacent rings (2) is of positive value.--

--24. (New) Belt (1), [in particular] according to claim 15, for use in a continuously variable transmission, [in particular] for automotive application, comprising at least one set (7) of nested

metal rings (2), the set (7) interacting with transverse elements (3, 6) provided slidably along the set (7), and the rings (2) of the set (7) being accommodated with small mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings (2), characterised in, that the thickness of one or both of the innermost and the outermost ring (2) of the set (7) is significantly less than the nominal thickness of in-between rings (2) of the set (7).--

B17
✓
--25. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 24, characterised in, that the thickness of said innermost or said outermost ring (2) is at least lower than twenty percent (20%) of the average value of the thickness of the in-between rings (2).--

✓
--26. (New) Belt (1), in particular according to claim 15, for use in a continuously variable transmission, in particular for automotive application, comprising at least one set (7) of nested metal rings (2), the set (7) interacting with transverse elements (3, 6) provided slidably along the set (7), and the rings (2) of the set (7) being accommodated with small mutual play between each pair of adjacent rings (2), characterised in, that the material composition of at least one of the innermost and the outermost ring (2) of the set (7) ⁽¹¹²⁾ significantly differs from that of the in-between rings (2) of the set (7), such that the elasticity modulus thereof is significantly lower than that of in-between positioned rings (2).--

--27. (New) Belt (1) according to claim 26, characterised in, that the elasticity modulus of said innermost and said outermost ring (2) is at least twenty percent (20%) less than the average value of the elasticity moduluses of the in-between rings (2).--

--28. (New) Continuously variable transmission provided with a belt (1) according to claim 15.--